

SYNONYMY OF BUCKTON'S AUSTRALIAN MEMBRACIDAE

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The synonymy of the Membracidae in Buckton's Monograph of the Membracidae has been worked out by comparing his descriptions and figures with the material upon which the Monograph of the Australian Membracidae was based, although some of his descriptions and figures are so crude that it was difficult to be certain of two or three of them. However, it is believed that the following synonymy is correct.

Genus EUTRYONIA Godg.

Hypsoprora cassis Buckt. = *E. monstrifer* Walk.

Genus ZANOPHARA Kirk.

Daunus decisis Buckt. = *Z. gracilis* Godg.

Daunus succisis Buckt. = *Z. tasmaniae* Fairm.

Centruchoides tasmaniae Buckt. = *Z. tasmaniae* Fairm.

Cæron tumescens Buckt. = *Z. tasmaniae* Fairm.

Cæron contortum Buckt. = *Z. tasmaniae* Fairm.

Ibiceps falcatus = *Z. tasmaniae* Fairm.

Genus SEXTIUS Stal.

Sextius virescens Buckt. = *S. virescens* Fairm.

Pterostieta rubrilinea Buckt. = *S. depressus* Godg.

Pterostieta spreta Buckt. = *S. depressus* Godg.

Pterostieta rubridorsata Buckt. = *S. depressus* Godg.

Pterostieta interposita Buckt. = *S. bipunctus* Fabr.

Pterostieta xantha Buckt. = *S. bipunctus* Fabr.

It is possible that the three forms of *Sextius* are varieties of one species.

Genus EUFRENCHIA Godg.

Oxyrhachis neglectus Buckt. = *E. neglectus* Buckt.

Genus EMPHUSUS Buckt.

Ibiceps ansatus Buckt. = *E. ansatus* Buckt.

Genus CENTROTYPUS Stål.

Ibiceps lamifer Buckt. = *C. lamifer* Buckt.

Genus DOGRANA Dist.

Sphærocentrus luteus Buckt. = *D. luteus* Buckt.

Philya parvula Buckt., is not a Membracid; it belongs to the Tettigiinæ, and is *Phrynomorpha parvula* Kirk.

Another genus and species must be added to the fauna of Australia:

***Sarantus australensis* new species**

It differs from *wallacei*, Stål (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. ser. 3, i, p. 537; Walk. Jour. Linn. Soc. x, p. 193, pl. 3, fig. 12), only in the pubescence which is orange-yellow instead of white and absent on the pronotal posterior process, and in the tegmina which are translucent-yellow with a broad percurrent dark ferruginous central stripe, not ferrugino-fuscous with apical part vitreous. Long. 10, lat. 3.5 mm. Type—♀; Brisbane, Queensland (Batchelor), July, 1901.

LEPIDOPTEROUS LARVAE AS AIDS IN MAGIC

Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, in "Medicine, Magic and Religion" (London, 1924), records the activities of a sorcerer among the Kai, people of the north-eastern portion of New Guinea, in which the feeding habits of lepidopterous larvae are utilized. It is believed by the Kai that a soul-substance pervades all parts of the body and extends to everything that has been in contact with the body. The sorcerer, therefore, secures a fragment of the body of his intended victim or something that he has touched, such as a hair, a drop of perspiration, remains of food, etc., in the belief that he is in possession of a part of the person's soul. This fragment is placed in a piece of bamboo which is hidden and kept warm in the arm-pit of the sorcerer. Soon after, the fragment is wrapped in a leaf of which caterpillars are fond, with the expectation that as the leaf is eaten by caterpillars, the body of the victim will be eaten by worms. Additional dispositions and rites accompany the fragment before the victim succumbs.—H. B. W.